

NPIC/TSSG/DED-1711-69
8 July 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Plans & Programs Division, PPBS/NPIC
THROUGH: Chief, Technical Services & Support Group, NPIC
SUBJECT: R&D Status Report on Selected Projects
REFERENCE: PPD/PPBS Speed Letter dated 24 December 1968

1. The following June 1969 Project Status information is forwarded in response to the request contained in the reference letter.

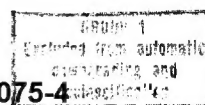
a. High Precision Stereo Comparator - [] Project Manager visited the Center on 11 June 1969 to coordinate with several components and to turn over the Recommended Spare Parts List and pricing to TSSG/ESD. [] made a monitor trip to [] the week of 16 June to review the progress of the optical subcontract. [] reports that all the individual optical and mechanical parts have been completed and [] is working on the sub-assemblies of the optical system. The work at the [] plant is progressing on schedule. The next monitor visit to [] by NPIC personnel is scheduled for 7 July 1969. On 16 June a NPIC in-house coordination meeting was held to establish the action and support required of the various Groups to maintain the fabrication, checkout and installation schedule for the project. These coordination meetings will be continued on a regular basis until the project is completed.

b. Automatic Target Recognition Program - In preparation for the technique selection to be made during August, virtually all of the contractor's effort has been devoted to comparative testing of the optical and electronic approaches for cloud determination. Technical data and test results will be supplied by [] by 8 August along with their technique recommendations.

A Center evaluation team is being formed to make the final decision, and it will consider all inputs by 19 August. The team is tentatively scheduled to witness demonstrations of both the optical and electronic approaches on 22 August at the contractor's plant. The final technique decision will be made by 29 August.

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c. 1540 Light Table - Prototype is presently at [] for modification of the light source. It will be returned to NPIC about 8 July for final evaluation.

d. Dry-Silver Material and Equipment - Five representatives of top management from the [] visited NPIC on 18 June 1969. This group was briefed by IAS, IEG, and PSG on the Center's photographic operation and procedures. The purpose of the visit was to help [] to formulate plans as to the most advantageous implementation of dry-silver and diazo techniques and processes in the field of photographic intelligence.

e. Wide-Field, High-Power Anamorphic Stereoviewer - The evaluation that was reported last month, to determine if NPIC should invest additional funds to fabricate the instrument, is continuing. The recommendation should be forthcoming during July.

f. Advanced Rhomboids, Model II - Project is waiting for confirming letter from [] on cost to complete production of the prototype. Expected time to completion is estimated to be 5 months from receipt by [] of authorization to proceed.

g. Automatic Stereo Scanner - Contract re-negotiation of the minimum optics redesign and bench test is planned for 7 July 1969. Completion of this task will be approximately the end of October 1969. Proposal for four- and six-month technical audits of the project by [] have been received, but their consideration has been deferred until the results of the interim [] task are obtained.

h. Image Comparison Microstereoscope - Following the initial 3 June revelation at [] overrun, the [] Administrator and Project Manager visited the Center on 12-13 June for further discussions. [] initial re-estimate was analyzed by the Project Officer and found to be inadequate, especially in the area of Project Direction. Subsequently, formal letters from [] were received on 18 and 23 June with increased labor hours and overhead rates and a total predicted overrun of []. As of 30 May 1969, [] had spent [] (about 60% of contract funds) on Phase II. Optical and mechanical problems with both the microstereoscope and the film stage control system have contributed heavily to the overrun, but [] also admits to inadequate management, resulting in over-optimistic reports on progress. These findings have triggered serious management changes, affecting this and other [] projects. All optical purchase orders have been released and

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the electrical system is ahead of schedule. While additional mechanical design and detailing has been necessary, many parts have been fabricated and sub-assembly has started. DED is preparing a memorandum requesting approval of the predicted overrun.

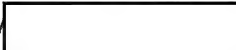


Deputy Chief
Development and Engineering Division

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